

What is claimed is:

1. A method for flushing an uncured solvent-based paint from paint delivery
5 installation, said method comprising contacting said uncured solvent-based paint
with a composition containing less than about 5 weight percent water and
comprising one or more organic solvents and at least one polymer dissolved
therein having functional groups selected from the group consisting of acid
groups, amine groups and combinations and salts thereof for a time and at a
10 temperature effective to remove said uncured solvent-based paint from said paint
delivery installation.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one polymer has acid functional groups in
the form of alkyl ammonium or alkanol ammonium salts.
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3. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one polymer has an acid equivalent weight
of greater than 300 g/mole.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein said composition comprises one or more organic
20 solvents selected from the group consisting of ketones, esters, ethers, alcohols,
aliphatic hydrocarbons, and aromatic hydrocarbons.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein said composition comprises from about 0.1 to
about 5 weight percent of said at least one polymer.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said composition comprises 30 to 50 weight % ketone, 35 to 55 weight % aromatic hydrocarbon, 1 to 10 weight % ester, 5 to 15 weight % alcohol, and 0.2 to 3 weight % of said polymer.

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7. The method of claim 1 wherein said contacting is accomplished by circulating said composition through said paint delivery installation.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein said uncured solvent-based paint comprises one or more resins selected from the group consisting epoxy resins, polyether resins, polyacrylate resins, polyurethane resins, polyester resins, and melamine resins.

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9. The method of claim 1 wherein said composition comprises 50 to 80 weight % ketone, 1 to 15 weight % aromatic hydrocarbon, 1 to 10 weight % ester, 1 to 20 weight % alcohol, 5 to 25 weight % aliphatic hydrocarbon, and 0.2 to 3 weight % of said polymer.

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10. The method of claim 1 wherein said polymer contains at least three functional groups per molecule selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acid groups, salts of carboxylic acid groups, and combinations thereof.

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11. The method of claim 1 wherein said polymer contains at least three functional groups per molecule selected from the group consisting of phosphoric acid groups, salts of phosphoric acid groups, and combinations thereof.
- 5 12. The method of claim 1 wherein said polymer contains at least three functional groups per molecule selected from the group consisting of amine groups, salts of amine groups, and combinations thereof.
- 10 13. The method of claim 1 wherein said polymer has a number average molecular weight of at least 500.
14. The method of claim 1 wherein said polymer contains both at least one acid group or salt thereof and at least one amine group or salt thereof per molecule.